

Appl. No. 10/789,255
Amdt. dated July 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 8, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (canceled).

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Claim 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (currently amended): An automatic animal grooming, feeding and litterbox apparatus comprising:

an enclosure;

a source of food disposed in said enclosure;

a portal formed in said enclosure, the portal being an aperture defined by a plurality of frames inwardly adjustable toward one another to thereby narrow the aperture; and

a grooming brush means disposed ~~between said portal and said source of food on at least two of the frames.~~

Claim 21 (original): The apparatus of Claim 20 further comprising:

a first level in said enclosure;

a second level in said enclosure;

ramp means disposed leading from said first level to said second level.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The apparatus of Claim 20 in which said enclosure comprises:

- a solid wall panel;
- a mesh wall panel; and
- an accordion wall panel erected within the enclosure.

Claim 23 (original): The apparatus of Claim 22 in which said solid wall panel, said mesh wall panel, and said accordion wall panel are each removable from said enclosure.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The apparatus of Claim 20 further comprising a maze disposed between said portal and said food source with said a further grooming brush means disposed in said maze.

Claim 25 (original): The apparatus of Claim 24 in which said maze is adjustable.

Claim 26 (original): The apparatus of Claim 21 in which said ramp means further comprises nail grooming means.

Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of Claim 26 in which said nail grooming means comprises:

- an abrasive layer; and
- a flexible mesh layer disposed spaced away from said abrasive layer.

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Claim 28 (original): The apparatus of Claim 20 in which said grooming brush means further comprises:

a grooming brush and an elastic support supporting said grooming brush.

Claim 29 (original): The apparatus of Claim 20 in which said grooming brush means comprises:

a grooming brush comprising a plurality of hollow bristles.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The apparatus of Claim 29 in which said hollow bristles further comprise a plurality of barbs on the hollow bristles.

Claim 31 (original): The apparatus of Claim 29 further comprising:

a powder storage means;

air delivery means communicating with said powder storage means and said plurality of hollow bristles for delivery of powder from said powder storage means through said hollow bristles.

Claim 32 (original): The apparatus of Claim 20 in which said grooming brush means comprises a plurality of curved bristles.

Claim 33 (original): The apparatus of Claim 20 further comprising litterbox means mounted in said enclosure.

Claim 34 (original): The apparatus of Claim 20 further comprising air conditioning means mounted in said enclosure.

Claim 35 (original): The apparatus of Claim 34 in which said air conditioning means comprises humidifier and temperature control means.

Claim 36 (original): The apparatus of Claim 34 in which said conditioning means comprises vaporizer means.

Claim 37 (original): The apparatus of Claim 34 in which said air conditioning means comprises a pair of spaced apart conductive plates and electrostatic generator means connected to said conductive plates.

Claim 38 (original): The apparatus of Claim 34 further comprising:
sensor means; and
control means disposed in said enclosure for sensing the position of an animal in said enclosure and operating said air conditioning means.

Claim 39 (original): The apparatus of Claim 22 comprising:
a second enclosure; and
connector means for connecting said enclosure to said second enclosure to form a combined enclosure.

Claim 40 (original): The apparatus of Claim 20 in which said enclosure comprises an upper grid plate and a lower grid plate.

Claim 41 (original): The apparatus of Claim 20 further comprising:
open container means mounted in said enclosure; and
clay material disposed in said open container means.

Claim 42 (original): The apparatus of Claim 20 further comprising:

a portal closure with said portal closure comprising a pair of flexible panels; and

a magnetic closure removably connecting said flexible panels.

Claim 43 (original): The apparatus of Claim 20 in which said grooming brush means further comprises shedder means mounted in said grooming brush means.

Claim 44 (original): The apparatus of Claim 20 further comprising:

sonic generator means for generating sonic energy with said sonic generator means mounted on said enclosure for dissuading an animal from entering selected areas of said enclosure.

Claim 45 (canceled).

Claim 46 (canceled).

Claim 47 (canceled).

Claim 48 (canceled).

Claim 49 (currently amended): The apparatus of Claim 20 ~~in which said brush grooming means comprises:~~ further comprising

~~a slotted flexible brush plate having a front and a rear;~~

a pair of solid plates each having an aperture with said solid plates mounted one in front and one in the rear of ~~said slotted flexible brush plate~~ the portal aperture formed with the plurality of frames and grooming brush means.

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Rule 126
Claim ⁵⁰~~51~~ (new): The apparatus of Claim 20 further comprising an accordion wall panel within the said enclosure.

Claim ⁵¹~~52~~ (new): The apparatus of Claim 20 further comprising an accordion panel forming an outer wall of the enclosure and having a plurality of slits enabling a cat to enter the apparatus.